

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian September 2025 Edition

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Mark's Remarks...



As we quickly approach Labor Day, I'm reminded of the words Paul uses in Ephesians 6:5: "Slaves obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is upon you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your hearts. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free."

Of course, we know that slavery in whatever guise is an evil to society. It was the reality of the Roman world, however. So, what can this passage teach us? We are not to work solely to gain recognition for our efforts. We are not to suddenly start working hard when we know the boss is looking our way and then go back to slacking off when their eye turns elsewhere. God wants us to work wholeheartedly. That means to do it with your whole being. You need to get rest, you need a healthy diet, you need sabbath time to rejuvenate, you need to communicate clearly what your needs are to accomplish your tasks and to ask questions for anything that isn't clear to you.

Too many people go through life putting in way less than their potential when it comes to work. The old joke is the ditch digger leaning on their shovel. You find the same thing in corporate boardrooms, political offices, restaurant workers... frankly, everywhere. Even among volunteers in churches there are the shovel 'leaners'.

A much better way of looking at our tasks is to picture that we are employed by Jesus and working for God. I believe that God calls us to the work that He wants us to do. Sometimes it is for a season, sometimes it is for a lifetime. Whatever you are doing – a career, a job, a chore around the house, a favor for a friend, or volunteering at church or anywhere – view it as working for God. His eye is always upon you, and He will reward you for a job well done. You can still have fun, still interact as appropriate with those around you. The difference is, instead of seeing how little you must do to complete the task, see how diligently you can give your all to the task. Take pride in your work. Have a happy Labor Day!



September Sermons

In September we will focus our attention on the Gospel lessons in the lectionary.
Come and hear the teachings of Jesus!

September 7:	Scripture: TBA (Homecoming)	Sermon Title: TBA
September 14:	Scripture: Luke 15:1-7	Sermon Title: 'Searching for Lost Sheep'
September 21:	Scripture: Luke 16:1-15	Sermon Title: 'Set Your Priorities'
September 28:	Scripture: Luke 16:19-31	Sermon Title: 'You Get What You Earn'

Live
Your Faith
TODAY!

LYFT is our Thursday evening worship service held in Fellowship Hall. We start at 5:30 pm with dinner and go right into worship at 6 pm. Worship includes music, a lay person or Pastor Mark speaking, prayer and communion. LYFT is a casual worship service where each week we enjoy food, fellowship and fun! Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

Remember...if you can't arrive in time for dinner, you can still come for worship!



Northern Lakes District UMC Rally

On Saturday, September 6th there will be a Northern Lakes District UMC Rally at Crown Point First UMC. Our Bishop, Tracy Malone, will be speaking and there will be plenty of great music. Don't miss this exciting event! If you would like to carpool over, we'll leave from our church at 2:15 pm. Sign up on the table in the narthex for a ride.



On Sunday, September 7th we are having our annual homecoming service at 9:30 am. There will be special speakers, our Chancel Choir will perform as well as other special music. All who have ever been a part of our church are encouraged to attend.

Following our Homecoming service there will be a lunch in the basement. We'll have a carry-in and all are welcome to bring your favorite main dish, side or dessert to share. Drinks and place settings will be provided.

We are looking for wedding pictures of all who were married at Lowell UMC or any of its predecessors. The predecessors are: Orchard Grove, West Creek, Jones Schoolhouse and Pleasant Grove. If you or any ancestor was married in these churches, we would love to have a picture of the couple. If your children, grandchildren or any family member was married at First UMC, we would love to have a picture of them. If you don't have a picture, tell us the names and date. We will celebrate these at Homecoming. Give them to Pastor Mark on or before 8/31, or bring them to the church office. We'll scan them and give them right back to you.



Martha's Coffee House Congregational Care

With the summer months coming to an end, we look forward to gathering again for Sunday morning fellowship in the church library with coffee and simple treats. Martha's Coffee House will start up again on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 9:00 AM. Coffee, hot water for tea, and a juice or other cool beverage will be available with some homemade or purchased goodies. Stop in between 9 – 9:30, or stop in immediately after the service.

Hosting and providing treats for Martha's Coffee House is done by volunteers. A sign-up calendar will be available in the library along with a basic instruction sheet. We are so grateful for the many volunteer hosts who served September thru May and hope more will join in this fellowship opportunity for our church family in the coming months.



Mission of the Month

Our September Mission of the Month is another local mission. **Community Help Network** is a mission in Crown Point started at First United Methodist Church there. They are located now in the ARC building warehouse across from Crown Point High School. Their influence extends across southern Lake County including Lowell. Their main work is the Buddy Bags, which we participated in last year. These bags of food go to the local schools to provide nutritious food to food insecure students. Ladle of Love provides a meal to folk on two Saturdays each month. The Household Pantry is just like our Household Pantry. It provides household items for the underprivileged. They try to help the surrounding communities in any way they can.

On September 14, you will have an opportunity to learn more about our mission, as well as a chance to give. Giving to missions should be above and beyond your giving to the ministries of the church. It is called second mile giving. Don't feel bad if you don't feel you can afford to support any of these monthly missions.



Chuck Wagon Buffet Dinner: Come Hungry for Good Food and Good Cause

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 20th, and bring your appetite for our upcoming annual Chuck Wagon Buffet Dinner! Our Chuck Wagon menu features all the fixings for a perfect family evening meal: savory sloppy joes, creamy cheesy potatoes, crisp coleslaw, fresh sweet corn, refreshing root beer floats, and desserts. Tickets are affordably priced at \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Can't stay to dine with us? No problem—carryout is available for those who prefer to enjoy their meal at home.

Best of all, every dollar from the proceeds will go directly toward supporting our church's outreach activities (Kidz Karnival, Music in the Park, Winterfest). When you join us for the Chuck Wagon Buffet Dinner, you're not just treating yourself to a great meal—you're helping us extend our ministry into the community and support those in need. Come hungry and bring your friends and neighbors. We can't wait to see you there!



Music in the Park: Building Community Through Music and Fellowship Outreach Team

Our Music in the Park community outreach event was a resounding success, bringing together neighbors from across our area for an evening of wonderful music, delicious food, and meaningful connection. The event perfectly embodied our mission to reach beyond our church walls and build relationships throughout our community.

The Lemmon Brothers Band provided the soundtrack for the evening, filling the air with music that had people tapping their feet and singing along. The food was equally impressive, with offerings from Mexico Lindo, FRIENDSHIP, and our own United Women in Faith ensuring that no one went hungry while enjoying the festivities.

Approximately 180 people attended Music in the Park, with roughly half of those in attendance coming from outside our church family. This means we had the joy of welcoming about 90 new faces to our church grounds—neighbors, friends, and community members who might not otherwise have had a chance to experience the warmth and hospitality of our congregation.

Events like Music in the Park remind us that ministry often happens in the most natural settings—over shared meals, through beautiful music, and in the simple act of opening our doors to welcome others. It's through gatherings like these that we continue to strengthen the bonds that make our community a truly special place to call home.



Buddy Bag Summer Program: A Season of Success and Service Outreach and Mission Teams

Our church's Buddy Bag satellite program wrapped up in August after an incredibly successful eight-week run. This special summer extension of the regular school-year Buddy Bag program invited children to visit our church every Wednesday to "shop" for a variety of nutritious foods, ensuring that no child in our area went hungry during the summer months.

Over the course of the program, we served approximately 38 different participants who came week after week to fill their bags with wholesome food options. This effort was made possible through the remarkable generosity of our congregation, who donated over 200 food items, and the dedication of 15 volunteers who gave their time each Wednesday to make the program run smoothly.

But beyond the numbers, what truly made this program special were the countless expressions of gratitude we received from the families we served which reminded us why this ministry matters so much. These families didn't just receive food—they experienced the love and care of our church family in action.

We are grateful for every congregation member who donated items, every volunteer who gave their time, and every family who allowed us to serve them. The Buddy Bag satellite program exemplifies what it means to love our neighbors in practical, meaningful ways, and we look forward to continuing this vital ministry in the future.



1st & 3rd Wednesday Country/Gospel Music Jam

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, local musicians from around the area gather to play and sing your favorite country gold, gospel greats, bluegrass, old rock 'n roll, folk, and more. You may bring an instrument and play along, or just come to listen.

The United Women in Faith will be on hand with refreshments for purchase. As with all of their projects, the proceeds will go to help others through missions. We really hope to see you there.

Mark the following dates on your calendars: September 3, 17; October 1, 15; November 5, 19; December 3, 17.

Just remember 1st & 3rd, 1 to 3.



Calling those who crochet or knit!!

Congregational Care

Our New Baby ministry has been busy lately welcoming some new grand and great-grand children to our church family. A home visit is made with gifts – a homemade baby blanket and a special cross. We are excited and are restocking our cross supply. We are also in need of some fresh, new baby blankets, especially blue or a neutral color.

If you are able to help restock our baby blanket supply or have questions, you may contact Trudy Corning at 219-613-1787, or Bev Johnson at 219-742-9376.



COME ONE, COME ALL, RING BELLS THIS FALL!

On Thursday, August 28 at 4:30, our Handbell Choir will be starting weekly rehearsals in the balcony on the third floor of the church. Godsbells has positions available, as well as temporary spots to fill for our traveling members.

We participate in worship on the second Sunday of every month and will be presenting a wide repertoire of music from classics to gospel favorites. This is a close-knit, supportive choir that prays weekly and enjoys ringing bells to the glory of God. Join us!

For more information contact Patrice Martin, 219-689-4518.



Our Trustees are always Busy!

Our Trustees are constantly working to maintain our building and rental property as well as the parsonage. Their recent tasks around our church building have included the placement of a bench on the west side of the outdoor playground, changing light bulbs in the sanctuary, addressing a leak in the church roof, and filling potholes on the east edge of the parking lot. Proceeds from their June rummage sale are earmarked for the capital projects fund as the 1962 church boiler in the church has an uncertain lifespan.

This summer, after pursuing many bids, the Trustees were able to get the lower level painted at a total cost (paint and labor) of \$7,070.61. (If you haven't seen it yet, venture downstairs to check out the fresh clean Fellowship Hall, kitchen and classrooms!) Bids for replacement of the basement flooring are on hold due to the unexpected need to replace a sanctuary air conditioner. The Trustees are planning a dinner fundraiser for Oct. to keep building up the capital projects fund for future expenses.



Finance Committee

Can you picture it? Can you imagine it? Our church and its strong sense of generosity!!! It's the generosity we focus on to build our script for to what God wants – Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Our mission and ministry are powerful. We are people of stories. We are helping people see their role in how to influence the world. God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community.

The ministry of our church is possible because of the generous financial support of this church community. Imagine what we can do in 2026! As we look forward to a new year of giving, we know through shared time, talent, and treasure, we can continue to look forward as a church family. We hope you will join us in making a commitment this coming year.

In the next month there will be numerous communications sharing our church stories that we prayerfully hope assists you in determining your 2026 pledge commitment.

In closing, we ask you to reflect on this thought – gratitude and celebration are the fruits of a generous lifestyle.



Sunday School for all ages begins September 14

Children's "Sonshine Express"

During the worship service on September 14 certificates will be passed out to the children who attended "Sonshine Express" last year. Also any child who has not yet received a Bible will be given one. Following the Children's Sermon, a teacher will take the children age 4 through 5th grade downstairs to the lower level classroom. Parents may pick up their children after the worship service.

The Sunday School teachers are grateful to Judy Williams and Kim Westerfield for providing Junior Church for the children on Sundays throughout the summer months. More volunteers are needed to provide the Children's Sermons during the 9:30 services. Please let Pastor Mark or Amy Manier if you can help fill this need.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. In Action

Hey church family!!! On Sunday September 14th the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Sunday Adult discussion class will begin its new year. The group meets at 8:15 a.m. in room 304. This is an opportunity to listen, to share insightful faith ideas, and to share questions in your lifetime faith journey. This is a small group setting and yes small groups are a place where we can foster deeper relationships, study God's word together, and support each other in our faith journeys. Would you consider joining us? Bring a friend and let's grow the fruits of the spirit together.

WINGS Sunday School Class

The Wings Adult Sunday School class will resume on Sunday, September 14, at 8:15 in Room 303. We will be discussing the book, The Me I Want To Be by John Ortberg. There is a me that each of us wants to be. Someone who is more kind and generous, more patient and loving. Becoming God's best version of you is God's desire and the greatest task of your life.

Pastor Ortberg teaches us through five lessons about how we can move toward becoming God's best version of ourselves in four specific areas: your mind, your time, your relationships, and your experiences.

All are welcome to join us for this powerful study written by one of our favorite authors.



I'm the church mouse. I see all that goes on in the church and I love to gossip about it. Of course being a Christian mouse, I only say positive things.

Did you know that we have a third worship service at the church? Well, let me tell you: We have our Sunday morning service and our Thursday night LYFT service. Pastor Mark has started a third worship experience at Lowell Health Care. Every Tuesday at 10:30 am First UMC provides worship for residents at the home. We're averaging about 20 attendees. They get a Call to Worship, hymns, prayer time, special music and a shortened version of Sunday's sermon. (With the joke of course.) We'll see what kind of ministry will grow from this.

Those Trustees are at it again. There are two air conditioners in the sanctuary and one stopped working. It will be very expensive to replace. The Trustees are diligently getting bids to try and save the church some money on this repair. Nothing seems to get past those Trustees.

Be careful when you do good work for the church. I'm watching and just waiting to share that gossip.



FALL '25 LAY SERVANT ACADEMY
@ Hebron United Methodist Church
202 W. Church Street, Hebron, IN 46341
SUNDAYS: Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 2-5 pm Central
\$10 per participant + cost of text

Introduction to Lay Ministry (for adults) - led by Pastor Sheri Locascio
Introduction to Lay Ministry (for YOUTH grades 8-12) - Led by Karen Williams
Exploring a Culture of Care for a Caring Congregation - Led by Pastor Tom Clark
Called to Preach - Led by Pastor Wayne Williams
Leading Public Prayer - Led by Pastor Jim Denton
Soul Reset - Led by Pastor Cathy Allison

ALL participants MUST register online by 9/7 at this link:
<https://inumc.swoogo.com/NDFall2025>

Questions? Contact Registrar Karen Williams @ 219-869-2324 or



Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. The next gathering will be September 23 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite someone to come along with you. This is a free Bingo with dessert and snacks and prizes for the winners. It's a fun time!



Pastor's Comic Corner

In case you haven't noticed, I love humor.
Below are comics that I've come across. Enjoy and smile! Pastor Mark



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 9:30am (in Sanctuary), **Mon.** - A/A 12pm (303) **Wed.** - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8pm (lib)
Thursday - Dulcimers 10am (303), Godsbells 4:30 pm, *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm/Worship 6:00pm (F.H.) Chancel Choir 7 pm
Sat. - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day/Office closed Labor Day Breakfast 9 am (before parade)	2	3 Country/Gospel Jam 1 pm (FH) UWF Exec 5:30 pm (lib) Trustees 6 pm	4	5 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	6 District Rally @ Crown Point UMC 3 pm
7 Homecoming Sunday! Pot-Luck lunch following service	8 Susanna Wesley Circle @ Betty's 1pm Tri-Kappa 6 pm (FH)	9 Staff/Parish Meeting 6 pm (conf. room)	10 Worship Meeting 6 pm (300) Education Meeting 7 pm (300)	11	12	13 Fellowship Hall Rented 12 pm
14 Mission Sunday: Community Help Network/Buddy Bags	15	16 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	17 Country/Gospel Jam 1 pm (FH) Finance Meeting 5:30 pm (FH)	18	19	20 Chuck Wagon Dinner 5-7 pm (FH)
21 **Tele-Christian Articles Due**	22 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	23 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	24	25	26	27 Fellowship Hall Rented 12 pm
28	29	30 Outreach Meeting 5 pm (library)				